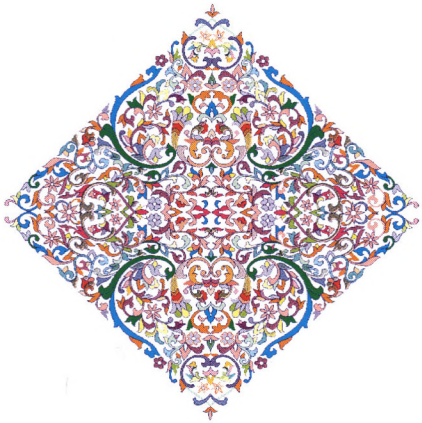


Abdullah bin Umar رضي الله عنهما

The Jurist

By: Abdul Basit Ahmad



عبد الله بن عمـــر رضي الله عنهما – الفقيـــة

‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar رضي الله عنهما

The Jurist

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‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar رضي الله عنهما

The Jurist

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

"Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least." (33:23)



Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our children and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In this book, '*Abdullah bin 'Umar–The Jurist*', we will learn about the life of one of the most famous Companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Abdullah bin 'Umar ﷺ was one of the youth who grew up in the presence of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions. His sharp memory, righteous character and devotion to imitating the Prophet's lifestyle in all matters, made him develop into one of the greatest scholars that Islam has ever known.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We at *Darussalam* realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim children, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our children. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker, and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

> "Is there any reward for good other than good?" (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager



Foreword

Any preacher might have many followers who seek to learn the teachings of religion from him. However, few of them truly understand the themes that the preacher was teaching them. A student might have something that interferes with his learning. Another one might not be fully interested in the knowledge given to him and hence loses most of the things he learnt from his teacher. However, there are followers who dedicate all their time and efforts to gaining as much knowledge as they can. Not only this, but also they follow every act and deed of their teacher. They cling to their teacher's directions under all conditions.

In this concise biography,we are going to have a look at the life of a Companion of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who was a great example of a devout follower. As a result of his keen dedication, he became one of the most prominent jurists of Islam.

Since childhood, the man was brought up amongst the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ who were the best of people. He belonged to a very good family both in morals and knowledge. His family members were not only well known for their knowledge, but were also people whom Allâh had blessed with justice and wisdom. His father was one of the few people who knew how to read and write in the period before Islam.

This Companion was very keen to keep himself beside the Prophet ﷺ in all his efforts to spread the new light of Islam. From a young age he was a devout follower of the teachings of Islam. His heart was greatly attached to Allâh and the Prophet ﷺ. He was guided and taught by the Prophet ﷺ and his father, 'Umar ﷺ, who was a prominent and a very close Companion of the Prophet ﷺ. He was one of those great scholars who strictly followed the Word of Allâh (Qur'ân) and the sayings of the Prophet ﷺ (*Sunnah* or *Hadith*).

He held a high position among the Prophet's Companions and was well known for his deep knowledge of Islam. His knowledge was of great value to the Muslims of his time and those who came after them.

His personality was shaped according to the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. Whenever he was asked to give a *Fatwa* (a legal ruling) on any particular matter, he exercised extreme caution for fear that he might make a mistake in his ruling. He would make sure that his answer would meet the strict conditions he established for himself in the light of the teachings of the Qur'ân and the sayings of the Prophet ﷺ.

He was a true example of piety and pure devotion to his faith. He did his best to use all of his time teaching his fellow Muslims and

worshipping Allâh for fear of harsh reckoning on the Day of Judgement.

His eyes would swell with tears whenever he heard *Ayât* (Verses) of the Qur'ân mentioning Hell-fire or the punishment of Allâh. His heart was so tender and his morals very straightforward.

He took part in the battles fought by his brother Muslims against ignorance and the worship of idols. He had much concern for the well being of his society. He did everything he could to bring the people out of the darkness they were living in. He, moreover, sacrificed everything he had to serve the Message of Allâh. He had no love or concern for this world whatsoever. His only concern was how to meet his Creator on the Day of Judgement. He knew that on that Day nothing could help but good deeds and true Faith.

In every test he proved to be true to his Faith. He firmly believed that Islam would, through knowledge and enlightenment, rule the whole world as long as Muslims kept true to the teachings of the Qur'ân and the sayings of the Prophet ﷺ.

This great man was 'Abdullah bin 'Umar رضي الله عنه. So, let us read on and learn from this great Companion.

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Introduction

Arabs before the rise of Islam

The Arab society in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas mainly consisted of tribes and clans. Some of them lived in towns while most of them followed their flocks everywhere in the desert in search of food and water. These tribes were usually involved in wars amongst each other. Every tribe was invading and invaded by other tribes.

The gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula and the world in general before the rise of Islam killed nearly every virtue in the minds and hearts of human beings at that time. Human rights, for example, were not given any value. Slavery, burying girls alive and injustices were dominating the societies of the city and desert alike. Youth and old were spending their time in grazing animals or practicing trade during the daytime and seeking trivial pleasures during the night. The guidance brought by previous religions was absent from the life of people. There was no central government; rather, every tribe had its own chief and customs in spite of the fact that some common laws were prevailing in the society.

The people of Arabia were largely idol worshippers. A number of Jews and Christians were scattered here and there, but their practice of their religions had greatly diminished. Every Arab tribe had its own deities and its own forms of worship. The Ka'bah in Makkah was itself surrounded with hundreds of idols which were considered by Makkans as gods.

All these vices and atrocities urgently needed a Messenger from Allâh to reform the society and spread guidance throughout the Arabian Peninsula in particular and the world in general.

Advent of Islam

The child Muhammad ﷺ grew up in such an environment. When he became a young man, he kept himself away from the evils and vices of the day. Like other youth, he used to graze his uncle's flocks. He was well behaved and was loved and respected by all those who came in contact with him. He was well known to be sincere and trustworthy to the extent that he was called *Al-Ameen* (trustworthy) by people. He did not like the ways that his peers were following to satisfy their desires. He even could not bear the idea to stand before any idol pleading for help. He sometimes engaged in trade on behalf of wealthy men. It is well known that he visited Damascus twice before he was commissioned with the message of Islam. On the way there, many signs

of his Prophethood were seen by his companions and even monks living in isolation. When he was twenty-five years old, he married a wealthy woman who preferred him to the chiefs of the Quraish.

At the age of forty, he was blessed by Allâh with the Prophethood. He started preaching the new religion to his close relatives as ordered by Allâh. After three years of calling to Islam, he was ordered by Allâh to preach Islam in public. He met hard opposition and cruel oppression, especially by his tribesmen.

The Prophet ﷺ spent thirteen years in Makkah calling the people of Makkah and its surrounding areas to accept Islam. However, he did not realize much success. He visited some nearby towns like Tâ'if to preach Islam and to seek protection against oppression. His attempts did not meet success.

The Prophet ﷺ changed his way of preaching Islam. He began calling visitors of Makkah to provide him protection to be able to proclaim the Word of Allâh. A group of visitors from a town called Yathrib believed in the message of Islam and pledged to provide the needed protection.

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions migrated to Yathrib (Al-Madinah). From there, they could establish their Islamic State and propagate the message to the entire world.

Values and morals called to by the Prophet ﷺ

The first thing the Prophet ﷺ called people to adopt was to worship One Allâh. He told people that the idols they were worshipping were just stones made by them and that they did not deserve to be worshipped. These stones were not the real creators of this vast universe. They could not bring their worshippers any good or cause them any harm. The Prophet ﷺ urged people to stop burying their daughters alive. These little girls were given the right by Allâh to live and no one should deprive them of this sacred right. He also urged them to be just to their slaves and not to be hard on them. He invited different tribes to stop invading each other and to unite their efforts under the banner of Islam to become a real nation. He also preached against all vices and evils that were spreading amongst the people.

Followers of Islam

In the beginning of the call, most of those who accepted Islam were weak people and slaves. They found justice and truth in the principles preached by the Prophet ﷺ. Although some of the early believers held good positions in their society, they also received their share of oppression and torture. These followers were worshipping Allâh secretly. They faced the challenge with courage and

steadfastness. All means to make them abandon their Faith were of no avail. The torture they received at the hands of the pagans did not succeed in making them even say one word against their Faith. Some of them were even killed under torture.

Attempts of the Quraish to stop the Call

The chiefs of the Quraish were furious to see Islam spread among people. In the beginning, they tried their best to make the followers of Islam recant. When they could not force the believers to give up their Faith, they began accusing the Prophet ﷺ of things that they themselves knew were untrue. They alleged that Muhammad ﷺ was a magician or a liar, although they themselves used to call him the trustworthy. However, all their attempts were of no avail. They followed another direction. They began negotiating with the Prophet ﷺ and his uncle to reach a compromise. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they would make him a king or give him all the money he might ask for. However, the Prophet ﷺ rejected all of their worldly proposals and continued preaching the message of Islam to all humanity.

A New Life

Makkah and the new Message

Makkah, the major city of the Arabian Peninsula, was on the verge of turmoil. All the people were speaking of a man named Muhammad ﷺ who had been sent by Allâh with a new religion to take them out of the darkness of ignorance to the light of guidance.

Muhammad ﷺ was a man well known among his tribesmen for his honesty and truthfulness. He belonged to the tribe of the Quraish, which was the most noble and powerful tribe at the time.

Three years had now passed since the Angel Gabriel visited Muhammad ﷺ for the first time commanding him to proclaim the Oneness of Allâh (Monotheism). It was time for the Arabian Peninsula and the whole world to change. There was a great need for a new light to shine over the earth taking human beings out of the darkness that they had been living in.

Makkans were idol worshippers. The rich among them oppressed the poor and the powerful treated the weak with cruelty. The people of Makkah and other Arabs were burying female babies alive for fear that they would bring shame to them. The Ka'bah was filled with about 360 idols which were worshipped by the people at that time.

The Quraish, being the most powerful tribe, was the custodians of the Ka'bah. They rejected the Prophet's invitation to Islam and to the worship of the One and only Allâh Alone. They did not want to put an end to the evil ways that they were practicing. Although the Quraish knew that the man who brought this message was distinct among them, they refused to accept it. They did not want to give up worshipping their false deities. They did not listen to the frequent calls of the Prophet ﷺ to accept Islam and stop placing partners with Allâh. Only a few people, who were mostly weak, accepted the message.

'Abdullah's household

During this time, 'Abdullah was born to a good family that was well known for its dignity and honor. His father, 'Umar, was one of the strongest men of the Quraish and belonged to a household known as Makhzoom.

In the beginning and for several years, 'Abdullah's father kept himself away from the light brought by the Prophet ﷺ. Actually he was a bitter enemy of Islam. He badly treated all his relatives who accepted Islam. He was even beating his female slave harshly to make abandon her new religion. When he found no way to stop Islam, he thought of killing the Prophet ﷺ. In order to kill him, he took his sword and went to where the Prophet ﷺ was teaching his Companions. On the way there, he met one of his relatives who had already accepted Islam and kept it secret. The man knew of his evil intentions and wanted to divert his way. He told him that his sister Fatimah and her husband Sa'eed had accepted Islam and that it was better for him to control his family before killing the Prophet ﷺ. He rushed to his sister's house where he heard some Verses of the Qur'ân. At that point he realized that the Qur'ân was the true Word of Allâh and that it was time for him to accept Islam as a way of life.

The Change

'Abdullah saw this change in the life of his father when he was only seven years old. After his father had accepted Islam, he accompanied his father to meet the Prophet ﷺ and declare that he also had become a Muslim.

Although ‘Abdullah ﷺ was very young, he could see how much the followers of Islam were suffering at the hands of the Quraish. He could not understand why the Quraish were so cruel and harsh to the followers of the new religion when they were calling people to mercy and love of one another.

As a result of this cruelty of the Quraish, ‘Abdullah ﷺ and his family had to leave their hometown Makkah and start a new life hundreds of kilometers away in a city known as Yathrib, but later known as Al-Madinah.

‘Abdullah ﷺ witnessed the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions struggling to convince the people of Makkah that Islam was the true religion of Allâh and that idols were just stones that could neither bring harm nor do good to them. On several occasions he accompanied his father to the Ka‘bah where his father challenged the chiefs of the Quraish and showed them how strong he was. He even tried to worship Allâh in front of them.

The Prophet ﷺ seeks protection outside Makkah

The Prophet ﷺ and the Muslims were desperate to convince the people of Makkah to accept Islam because idolatry was deeply rooted in their hearts. The chiefs of the city felt the danger of the principles that Muhammad ﷺ was calling people

to adopt in their lives. They did not want to lose their power and distinction over others.

On the other hand, the Prophet ﷺ tried his best to call people from outside of Makkah to accept Islam. He would go to the marketplace to meet visitors of Makkah and ask them to provide him with protection so that he could preach the Message of Allâh. His efforts did not meet success at the beginning. The people of Quraish would follow him wherever he went to defame his personality and his message. They would tell people that Muhammad ﷺ was a magician, a lunatic or a liar. They even ordered boys and slaves to stone him while he was calling others to Islam. His uncle, Abu Lahab, and his wife would throw filth onto his house and tease him. Abu Jahl, another bitter enemy of Islam, would mock him and his religion before all the people.

Agreement with the people of Al-Madinah

The people of Al-Madinah visited Makkah every year to exchange goods and visit the Ka'bah. The Prophet ﷺ called them to believe in Islam and provide him with protection and support in their town.

The inhabitants of Al-Madinah already knew from the Jews living in the suburbs of Al-Madinah that a Prophet was going to appear in the Arabian Peninsula. The Jews were always telling them that

they would follow the new Prophet ﷺ and wage war against them. The delegation from Al-Madinah discussed how they should react to the call of the Prophet ﷺ. They all agreed that the man was a true Prophet and that Islam was the true Message from Allâh. They all accepted Islam secretly lest the Quraish cause them any harm. They also promised the Prophet ﷺ to come back the next year to conclude a pledge of mutual support.

The Pledge

The next year, seventy-three men and women from Al-Madinah visited Makkah to offer a pledge of loyalty to the Prophet ﷺ. They secretly met the Prophet ﷺ outside of Makkah. They promised the Prophet ﷺ to provide all means possible to protect the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions in their hometown.

The Prophet ﷺ was so happy to finally have a shelter where he could propagate Islam as ordered by Allâh. He was sure that the people of Al-Madinah would support him in his call to Islam.

Migration to Al-Madinah

The Prophet ﷺ immediately instructed his Companions to migrate to Al-Madinah to escape the torture they were receiving at the hands of the Quraish. He told them that they would find a safe

shelter in Al-Madinah where they could worship Allâh in peace.

'Abdullah's father, like other Muslims, had to leave Makkah to Al-Madinah. Although 'Abdullah ﷺ was saddened at the thought of leaving his hometown, he knew that it was impossible for Muslims to keep to their Faith under the tortures and hardships that they were made to suffer at the hands of the Quraish.

Migration without Fear

Fearing the evil plots of the Quraish, many Muslims had to leave the city under the cover of darkness. However, 'Umar ﷺ and his family members decided to leave the city in daylight. 'Umar ﷺ was not afraid of anyone for he was strong enough to challenge the chiefs of the Quraish.

Little 'Abdullah ﷺ was put on the back of a camel to leave Makkah with his family. The Quraish stood staring at the family of 'Umar ﷺ leaving the city. 'Umar ﷺ wanted to arouse their anger and make them feel he was strong enough to leave to his destination during daylight.

A hard journey to a new land

'Under the blazing sun, 'Abdullah ﷺ held on to the back of the camel for fear of falling down. His

head was about to boil. His father put a shade over his head to protect him against the burning rays of the desert sun. It was a long, bumpy journey on rocky, blazing roads, up and down hills and valleys. After a journey of ten days, 'Abdullah's family finally arrived in Al-Madinah where they received a warm welcome by the people of Al-Madinah. These people were known in the history of Islam as *Ansâr* (Supporters). They gave a lot of help and support to the Prophet ﷺ and the people who migrated from Makkah, known as the *Muhâjirun* (Migrants).

The Prophet ﷺ arrived in Al-Madinah some months later with his Companion and close friend Abu Bakr ﷺ. On the day of his arrival, 'Abdullah ﷺ, along with many other young boys, stood over rocks waiting for the Prophet of Allâh ﷺ and Abu Bakr ﷺ at the outskirts of Al-Madinah. They welcomed the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion Abu Bakr ﷺ with cheers and great happiness.

In Al-Madinah, 'Abdullah ﷺ stayed close by the Prophet ﷺ and tried to be with him at all times.



‘Abdullah ﷺ in Al-Madinah

As soon as the Prophet ﷺ arrived in Al-Madinah, he and his Companions, men and women, young and old, began building their new Islamic State. ‘Abdullah ﷺ was a witness to the quick spread of Islam in the houses of Al-Madinah. However, ‘Abdullah ﷺ knew very well that the pagans of the Arabian Peninsula would not allow Islam to spread because the pagans felt that Islam was a threat to their power. Islam was freeing people from their slavery, oppression and selfishness.

Young ‘Abdullah ﷺ and the battle

‘Abdullah ﷺ was only thirteen years old when he witnessed the Muslims in Al-Madinah trying their utmost to save their religion and city from the harm of the idolaters.

The Quraish had gathered an army of one thousand soldiers to attack the Muslims. ‘Abdullah ﷺ was hoping to take part in this battle, known as the Battle of Badr. He believed in Islam and knew that the Faith of Islam should be protected against enemies. Hence, he felt it was his duty to fight the idolaters as a true Muslim. However, the Prophet ﷺ felt ‘Abdullah ﷺ was too young to take

part in the battle. Therefore, he did not allow him to join the army heading to Badr. 'Abdullah ﷺ felt very sad to be deprived of the honor of sharing with his fellow Muslims in their first battle against paganism, especially since he saw other young Muslims of similar age joining the army. He left the mosque where the army was being mobilized for combat. He asked his father to talk to the Prophet ﷺ in the hope that he might be permitted to march with the army. However, his father told him that he was too young and that it was better for him to stay with his family in Al-Madinah to care for them in the absence of his father.

'Abdullah ﷺ was very disappointed for not being able to take part in the battle. He stayed in Al-Madinah waiting for the news about the result of the battle. He knew very well that the Muslims were still weak but he knew that Allâh would not leave them alone in the face of their enemy. Days were passing very heavy on his heart. For many nights he kept awake thinking of the Muslims and praying to Allâh to help them.

Allâh's help in support of the Believers

However, it was not long before his sadness turned into happiness and joy. The Muslims won the Battle of Badr. He saw the pagan prisoners of war passing before him with their hands chained

to their necks. He saw how much the oppressors of the Muslims were humiliated. Now he was well aware of the difference between being a Muslim relying on Allâh's help and an idolater relying on stone idols. Though the Muslim army was third the number of the pagan army, through the help of Allâh and their true determination and belief, they defeated the big pagan army.

More challenges to Islam

The chiefs of the Quraish were angry to receive such a big blow and were intent on revenge. They all agreed that the revenues they got from the trade caravan that escaped the Muslims' catch should be used for mobilizing another army to finally undermine Islam and the Muslims.

They mobilized an army of three thousand soldiers and marched with all arrogance and pride to Al-Madinah. They made an oath before their idols that they would put an end to Islam.

They camped at a place near to Mount Uhud. They held feasts, drank wine and enjoyed their time with worldly pleasures. They were sure that this time they would bring Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions in chains back to Makkah to kill them as sacrifices to their false gods. Their women even shared in the march to help encourage them to fight the Muslims They dreamt that they would

take the Muslims as slaves to serve them in Makkah.

Muslims, on the other hand, felt that the danger was so great that they would not be able to deter the aggressors. The Prophet ﷺ discussed with his Companions a way to stop the aggression. Some Companions preferred to keep inside of Al-Madinah and fight a defensive war against the intruders. However, the young Companions urged the Prophet ﷺ to march to face the enemy and fight an open battle. They were so zealous that no one could resist their wish. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they should not show their enemy that they feared to meet them in an open battle. The Prophet ﷺ finally agreed to the young Companions' point of view and ordered them to prepare for the battle. These young Companions were blamed by the elders for insisting on the Prophet ﷺ to take their side. They wanted to apologize for their zeal and told the Prophet ﷺ that they would not insist on meeting their enemy outside of Al-Madinah. However, the Prophet ﷺ had already gotten dressed for combat. He told them that a Prophet ﷺ dressed in combat uniform should not retreat.



'Abdullah ﷺ hopes to join the army Again

The Muslims prepared themselves to fight the aggressors. 'Abdullah ﷺ was so eager to share in this battle that he got a sword and a shield in preparation for the battle. As the Prophet ﷺ was checking the rows of fighters, 'Abdullah ﷺ stood on his toes to show that he had become a man able to fight. Even this time the Prophet ﷺ did not allow him to take part in the battle because of his young age.

Sad for Muslims to lose the Battle

All sincere Muslims were filled with zeal to show the Quraish that they were not an easy prey. The Prophet ﷺ selected forty archers and positioned them on a small hill to protect the back of the Muslim army. The Muslims fought a fierce battle and victory over the powers of evil was very close. However, the archers whom the Prophet ﷺ assigned to protect the back of the Muslims and instructed them to stick to their positions whatever the result of the battle was, made a big mistake. They left their positions to share in collecting the booty when they saw the army of the Quraish fleeing the battlefield. The Quraish horsemen found it a good chance to attack from behind. They penetrated the rows of the Muslim fighters and the battle ended in a near defeat to the Muslims. Many Muslims were killed and many others were

wounded. Thus, the Muslims lost the Battle of Uhud.

'Abdullah ﷺ was deeply saddened by the loss, but he remained strong in his belief in Allâh. He knew that the Muslims would never abandon their Faith for losing one battle.

'Abdullah's efforts in the Trench Battle

The chiefs of the Quraish were happy to defeat the Muslims in the Battle of Uhud. They decided to continue their vicious efforts to fight the last battle against Islam. They thought that the Muslims would not be able to withstand another battle. They gathered ten thousand men from all tribes of Arabia and marched toward Al-Madinah seeking to give a lethal blow to the Muslims. Even the Jews, who previously held covenants with the Muslims to support them against their enemies, broke their promises and agreed with the disbelievers to help them against the Muslims.

The Muslims were not sure what to do in the face of this huge army. The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions discussed several options but could not reach a final decision. Salman Al-Farisi ﷺ, a Muslim from Persia, finally convinced the Muslims to dig a trench around Al-Madinah to defend themselves against the huge army of the Quraish.

'Abdullah ﷺ, now fifteen years old, was given the chance to share with the other Muslims in the

coming battle. He joined his fellow Muslims in digging the trench and did all he could to prove that he was able to defend his religion and people.

The idolaters tried to attack the Muslims and break into Al-Madinah. They were surprised to see a wide trench separating them from achieving their goal. The trench was a military trick unknown to the Arabs. No real combat took place; there was only minor fighting. After a siege on Al-Madinah for about a month, the Quraish realized that they were not able to get to the Muslim army, so they left back to their homes in despair and humiliation.

'Abdullah ﷺ joins the Prophet ﷺ and other Muslims to perform Pilgrimage

Years passed by like a dream. 'Abdullah ﷺ was day after day getting more steadfast in Islam, until he occupied a strong position among the Muslims. He joined the Prophet ﷺ on his trip to Makkah, hoping to perform pilgrimage. However, he became sad because the pagans prevented the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions from visiting the Ka'bah and performing pilgrimage. Yet, he was sure that the agreement concluded with the Quraish was a step toward achieving his hopes of a day when all Muslims would freely and peacefully visit Makkah and perform pilgrimage the way they

liked. Both parties concluded a treaty to stop fighting for ten years.

On the way back to Al-Madinah, 'Abdullah ﷺ heard the Prophet ﷺ bringing good news to 'Abdullah's father that very soon they would conquer Makkah and purify the land from idolatry.

The Quraish could not keep their word. They broke the agreement they had with the Prophet ﷺ to stop fighting for ten years. Their allies, Banu Bakr, assaulted the allies of the Muslims, Khuzâ'ah, and killed some of the tribesmen.

Conquest of Makkah

The Prophet ﷺ was now free to act against the Quraish. He had already been promised by Allâh that the Muslims would conquer Makkah and enter it peacefully and safely.

'Abdullah ﷺ felt very happy to see the Prophet ﷺ and the other Muslims preparing themselves to march to Makkah. He, himself, was ready to march with them. He recalled the days he spent in Makkah while a young boy. He wished to see his old house where he spent many days playing with his peers.

'Abdullah ﷺ entered Makkah with the Prophet ﷺ and the other ten thousand Muslims peacefully. He shared in destroying the idols that were surrounding the shrine of the Ka'bah. He was

waiting for the Prophet ﷺ to take action against the chiefs of the Quraish who caused him and his Companions many harms. However, he knew very well that the Prophet ﷺ was a merciful man. He listened to the Prophet ﷺ telling the inhabitants of Makkah: "Go! You are free." As a result, all the people of Makkah accepted Islam. They were afraid that Muhammad ﷺ might kill them or take them as slaves but the Prophet ﷺ was not a man who would revenge himself on others. He was a Messenger from Allâh with a mission to spread guidance and peace amongst all people.

'Abdullah ﷺ visited his family's old house. It had become ruins. However, he was so happy because he built another house that would gather all people together under the banner of Islam.

The farewell pilgrimage

'Abdullah ﷺ returned to Al-Madinah to prepare for another trip. The next year he was going to accompany the Prophet ﷺ to Makkah again but this time to perform pilgrimage according to the true rites of Islam. He with about one hundred thousand Muslims under the leadership of the Prophet ﷺ left to Makkah.

On the Mount of 'Arafat, 'Abdullah ﷺ wore *Ihrâm* dress and listened carefully to the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. He stood by his father while the Prophet ﷺ was telling them that Islam had now

been complete and perfect. He and his father felt that the Prophet ﷺ was about to leave them forever.

The Prophet ﷺ passes away

As 'Abdullah ﷺ completed the rites of pilgrimage, he returned to Al-Madinah with the Prophet ﷺ and the other Muslims. He came back from his trip more knowledgeable and more experienced. Senior Companions of the Prophet ﷺ consulted him on matters related to Islamic law and other rulings which he acquired knowledge of as a result of keeping close to the Prophet ﷺ.

Upon leaving back to Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ fell ill. 'Abdullah ﷺ kept close to the Prophet ﷺ, especially when vesiting his sister Hafsah رضي الله عنها (the Prophet's wife). Every time he saw the Prophet ﷺ suffering high fever, he shed tears, for he was almot sure that this would be the last time he would see the Prophet ﷺ.

He was very shocked to learn that the Prophet ﷺ had passed away. He listened to his father warning anyone who might say that the Prophet ﷺ had died. He was filled with sorrow but he submitted to the Will of Allâh.

Always Devoted ... Always Sincere

As Muslims finished burying the body of the Prophet ﷺ, they gathered in the mosque to offer allegiance to Abu Bakr ﷺ who was selected by the

Muslims to be the Caliph (ruler).

'Abdullah ﷺ stood by the side of the Caliph in the most difficult situations that the Muslims had to face. Most Arab tribes rebelled against the central government. Some of them even abandoned Islam. Islam was not deeply rooted in their hearts.

'Abdullah ﷺ pledged to sacrifice himself for the Cause of Allâh. He joined the armies commissioned by the Caliph to fight the apostates throughout Arabia; especially the rebellion led by Musailimah the Liar.

As order was restored to the Arabian Peninsula, 'Abdullah ﷺ had another mission. He joined the Muslim army to the northern borders of Arabia to fight the Romans who were threatening to destroy the Islamic state.

After a very short time, the Muslims conquered the two super powers of those days. The Romans in the north and the Persians in the east were defeated and most part of their lands was conquered by the Muslims.

Abu Bakr ﷺ passed away after two years of achievements. Before dying, he consulted the Muslims about the best man to succeed him. They

all agreed that 'Umar ﷺ, 'Abdullah's father, was the one most entitled to be the Caliph.

'Umar ﷺ took over and continued the previous Caliph's efforts to propagate Islam everywhere. Many Companions of the Prophet ﷺ urged 'Umar ﷺ to give 'Abdullah ﷺ a position under his reign. They knew that 'Abdullah ﷺ was very knowledgeable and wanted the ruler to use his diverse skills. However, 'Umar ﷺ refused to give 'Abdullah ﷺ any position. He preferred that 'Abdullah ﷺ keep away from heavy responsibilities of rule. Meanwhile, he would consult him on various matters that concerned the Islamic State. 'Umar ﷺ always felt happy to see his son sitting with senior Companions of the Prophet ﷺ to discuss matters related to Islamic law. Near the end of his life, 'Umar ﷺ selected six Companions of the Prophet ﷺ to choose one among them to be his successor. Again people urged him to include 'Abdullah ﷺ in the elected group and again he refused to do so. He told them that it was enough for the household of 'Umar ﷺ that one of them is held accountable on Doomsday for such an assignment. His friends told him that 'Abdullah ﷺ was a pious man and it would be an advantage for Muslims to have 'Abdullah ﷺ as a Caliph. 'Umar ﷺ told them that all Muslims were pious.

He added:

> "Any ruler who gives posts to his relatives on no grounds except that they are his relatives, he would be a traitor against Allâh and the Prophet ﷺ."

On another occasion, 'Umar ﷺ said that the people of Kufah always complained against their governors. He added that he wished to have a trustworthy man to hold the post of governor of Kufah. A man told him that 'Abdullah ﷺ was the man. 'Umar ﷺ told the man that his advice was not proper.

'Abdullah ﷺ was shocked again to lose his father. He could not imagine his father being killed by any Muslim. When he found out that the killer was a disbeliever, he realized how much danger the Muslims were facing as a result of having disbelievers within the borders of Islamic State.

'Umar ﷺ did not want to leave the nation without a ruler. He, therefore, selected six prominent Companions of the Prophet ﷺ to choose one among them to be the caliph.

The six selected persons chose 'Uthmân ﷺ to be the Caliph. 'Abdullah ﷺ was among the people who pledged loyalty to the new Caliph. He held a great position in the eyes of 'Uthman ﷺ. Hence, 'Uthman ﷺ wanted to appoint him as a judge

drawing on his knowledge of Islamic law. However, 'Abdullah ﷺ rejected the post. He wanted to keep away from worldly posts because he dedicated himself to things higher than worldly powers. He continued his mission as an advisor to the Caliph.

Unfortunately, some rebels with bad intentions for the Islamic State revolted against 'Uthmân ﷺ. 'Abdullah ﷺ advised Uthmân ﷺ to take action against them or they would disrupt the nation. 'Uthmân ﷺ was very lenient. He did not like to shed blood. He did not accept any advice to stop the rebels. Finally, the rebels attacked his house and killed him while he was reciting the Qur'ân.

'Ali ﷺ was selected as the Caliph. Many Muslims requested the new Caliph to punish the rebels who killed 'Uthmân ﷺ. Difference between 'Ali ﷺ and Mu'awiyah bin Abi Sufyân ﷺ, the Governor of Damascus, heightened to the extent that both factions fought against each other.

Keeping away from disputes among the Muslims

He knew from the beginning that the enemies of Islam would not stop their plots to destroy the Islamic State. He did his best to bring both factions to terms, but all of his efforts were in vain. Therefore, he kept himself away from any

dispute among the Muslims. He, along with some other prominent Companions of the Prophet ﷺ, did not take the side of either party.

'Abdullah ﷺ was convinced that his duty was to fight against disbelievers. He did not find any justification to share in a war between the Muslims. He said to those who insisted on him to take either side:

> "I have pledged before Allâh not to fight anyone who bears witness that none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh."

'Abdullah ﷺ refused to join Ali's men. Mu'âwiyah ﷺ thought that 'Abdullah's refusal was an objection to Ali's efforts against the rebellion. He asked 'Abdullah ﷺ to be on his side. 'Abdullah ﷺ sent a letter to Mu'awiyah ﷺ saying:

> "I am not the one to join your side. You thought that my refusal to join 'Ali ﷺ was due to something bad about 'Ali ﷺ. Surely you are wrong. I am not equal to 'Ali ﷺ in belief or in relation to the Prophet ﷺ. The matter is that I do not like to involve myself in something that I have no guidance about from the Prophet ﷺ."

'Abdullah ﷺ isolated himself in his house. A man urged him to take part in the events, but he replied with anger:

"If anyone calls me to prayer I would surely respond to his call. If anyone calls me to piety I would surely respond to his call. But if anyone calls me to fight a Muslim I would surely reject his call."



The Example of a True Muslim

The Devout follower

'Abdullah ﷺ loved the Prophet ﷺ very dearly. He always wanted to be with the Prophet ﷺ so that he could learn more about Islam from him. He was always acquiring more knowledge about Islamic law. He was well known for closely following every action and saying of the Prophet ﷺ and putting all of Prophet's acts into careful practice, exactly as he had seen the Prophet ﷺ doing them. For example, if he saw the Prophet ﷺ offering *Salah* (prayer) in a particular place, then he too would pray in the same place. 'Abdullah ﷺ was also very keen to memorize every word of the Qur'ân and the Prophet's sayings. If he ever missed hearing the Prophet ﷺ teach for some reason, he would ask others about what he had missed. Thus, he never missed any opportunity to learn more and more about Islam.

Exact practice of Islam

Amongst all the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ 'Abdullah ﷺ was the most prominent for his intelligence and love for learning. He was a true follower of the Prophet's teachings. He followed Islam exactly as the Prophet ﷺ taught it. His lifestyle and character were an example of a true Muslim.

Once, he told his sister Hafsah ﵂, the Prophet's wife, that he dreamt that I was holding a piece of silk and flying everywhere in Paradise. Two men caught me and were about to throw me in the Hellfire, but an angel asked them to leave him alone. Hafsah ﵂ told the Prophet ﷺ about the dream. He said that 'Abdullah ﵁ was a good man, but he should pray more during the night. From that day, 'Abdullah ﵁ always prayed in the night hoping to save himself from the Hellfire. He was always repeating Verses of the Qur'ân that reminded him of the Day of Judgement, when all human beings would stand before Allâh for reckoning.

Like Father Like Son

'Abdullah's father, 'Umar ﵁, was a second example for him to follow. Once 'Abdullah ﵁ bought some camels that he wanted to graze and sell after some time. 'Umar ﵁ saw the camels and told 'Abdullah ﵁ to sell them immediately, take his money and add the profit to the state treasury. 'Abdullah ﵁ did as his father ordered him. He knew that his father did not like him to be occupied with worldly things.

'Abdullah ﵁ was a very good trader, but he never kept any money for himself. Anything he earned, he would spend on orphans and widows. Once, he ate a piece of meat and felt very bad

afterwards for enjoying himself while there were many Muslims suffering poverty. His father taught him to feel the pain and sufferings of other Muslims and try to live like they lived.

The pious and humble Muslim

Even after his father became the Caliph (ruler), 'Abdullah ﷺ did not take advantage of his father's powers. He did not like to be treated any better than other Muslims.

Although 'Abdullah ﷺ was a man of great wisdom and intelligence, he was very humble and modest. He never wanted to take on any official position in the government. He always felt that there were Muslims much better than he was for such official positions.

Uthman ﷺ, the third Caliph of Islam, appreciated 'Abdullah's profound knowledge of Islamic law. He asked him to hold the position of a judge. Even though he was very capable of being a judge, 'Abdullah ﷺ rejected the position. The position of a judge was of great importance and honor, but 'Abdullah ﷺ feared making mistakes and errors in matters dealing with Islam and justice.

In spite of the fact that 'Abdullah ﷺ was highly knowledgeable, he did not feel that his knowledge gave him an advantage over other Muslims.

Instead, he always considered himself to be equal to the poorest people.

Once, his father 'Umar ﷺ, the Chliph, wanted to give a speech to the Muslims. He got onto the pulpit and began his speech saying:

"Listen to me and obey me!"

A man from the congregation reacted:

"We will not listen nor obey."

'Umar ﷺ exclaimed: "Why!" The man explained:

"You gave every one of us one piece of cloth to make one's dress and you took two pieces for yourself. You favored yourself over us."

'Umar ﷺ immediately asked his son 'Abdullah ﷺ to stand up and tell the man the fact. 'Abdullah ﷺ explained the man that his father was a tall man. So, he had taken 'Abdullah's share of the cloth and joined with his own share to make a dress for himself. The man's heart softened. He at once uttered full obedience to 'Umar ﷺ who deserved to be obeyed and listened to.

Morals of a great man

'Abdullah ﷺ was also well known for his piety, simplicity, humility, generosity and truthfulness. Once his servant made a mistake for which he deserved to be punished. He was brought before 'Abdullah ﷺ to be questioned. 'Abdullah ﷺ asked the man why he made such a mistake. The man asked 'Abdullah ﷺ:

"Have you never sinned?" 'Abdullah ﷺ replied: "Yes, I have many times." The man said: "And Allâh forgave you. So be kind to me as Allâh has been kind to you."

'Abdullah ﷺ immediately forgave the man.

On another occasion, his friend brought him a fine dress and asked him to put it on instead of his rough clothes. He touched the dress and inquired: "Is it silk?" His friend replied:

"No, it is made of cotton."

'Abdullah refused the gift and said:

"I am afraid that it might make me proud and arrogant. Allâh does not like a Muslim to be proud or arrogant."

Another man offered him a bottle of liquid. He said it was good for indigestion. 'Abdullah ﷺ said:

"I do not need it. I have not had a full stomach for forty years."

'Abdullah ﷺ always recalled the Prophet's advice to him:

"O son of 'Umar! Always consider yourself a stranger or a traveler in this world, and always prepare for the Hereafter."

His friend Maymun bin Mahrân is reported to have said:

"I counted the things in 'Abdullah's house and found them equal to one hundred dirhams in all."

'Abdullah ﷺ always spent his earnings on the poor and needy and never left himself any wealth to satisfy his own needs. He loved to eat with the poor and needy. He always warned people of getting too involved with the pleasures of life. He reminded them not to forget that one day they would leave everything behind and be asked on the Day of Reckoning about the things they did in this life.

He always told his students:

"Always follow the example of Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions, for they were the best on earth, the most pious, the highest in knowledge and the least arrogant."



The Great Teacher

As much as 'Abdullah ﷺ liked to learn, he also was keen to teach what he had learned. He felt that depriving other people a chance to learn was something that Allâh would punish one for. Therefore, he spent most of his time teaching his students about Islam. Many scholars of *Shari'ah* (Islamic law) in the following centuries learned a lot from the works of 'Abdullah ﷺ. He was well respected for his strict way of applying the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. Anyone who studies Islamic law will definitely come across the name of 'Abdullah bin 'Umar ﷺ, for he was a great teacher and scholar.

'Abdullah ﷺ narrated many *Ahadith* (sayings of the Prophet ﷺ). He took great care to memorize such sayings as he heard them from the Prophet ﷺ. His knowledge was, and is still to this day, passed down to students of knowledge and scholars alike. No scholar of Islam could do without the teachings of 'Abdullah ﷺ, because they were strictly founded on the Qur'ân and *Sunnah*.

A man once addressed him saying:

"You are the best man from the best origin."
'Abdullah ﷺ replied: "I am not the best man from the best origin. I am only a servant of Allâh. I always fear to be punished by Him."

'Abdullah ﷺ was asked whether the Prophet's Companions used to laugh. He replied that they did, but they never went astray and never gave in to the pleasures of life.

It is narrated that 'Abdullah ﷺ passed by a grave. His companion inquired what could be the end of the one buried in that grave. 'Abdullah ﷺ affirmed that bodies vanish, but good deeds always remain valid for salvation on Doomsday.



The End

After the Prophet ﷺ had passed away, 'Abdullah ﷺ kept very strong in his belief. All he was interested in was to keep the Muslim society safe and intact against the plots of bad rulers and people who wanted to harm the Muslims and their religion.

During the period of the Ummayad rule, he received much oppression for his views. He did not like the way the rulers and the people were using the new wealth that they gained by conquering other nations. He spent the last days of his life teaching both rulers and other members of the society how to stick to the true and pure Islam and how to avoid indulging themselves in pleasures. He wanted them to feel the pains of the poor and the needy. Bad rulers felt that he was endangering their privileges. They did not like his way of preaching to the people and rulers.

However, 'Abdullah ﷺ was never concerned about being harassed or oppressed because of his views and no one among the rulers could stop him from teaching the true and pure Islam.

It was reported that 'Abdullah ﷺ was poisoned by Al-Hajjaj bin Yusuf Ath-Thaqafi, a tyrant who did not like 'Abdullah ﷺ because he spoke against his way of ruling.

Seventy-three years after migration to Al-Madinah, 'Abdullah bin Umar ﷺ surrendered his blessed soul to Allâh and died like a hero. He left the Muslim world an ocean of knowledge and an excellent example to follow. All the scholars of Islam relied heavily on his points of view related to Islamic law.

His eternal advice to all Muslims was:

> "Son of Adam! Be a companion to the worldly life with your body, but keep your heart away from it. You will be held accountable in the Hereafter for all the things you do in this life."

We are greatly indebted to 'Abdullah bin 'Umar ﷺ for the treasure he left us. He was one of those who established a school of thought that you should study in detail as you get older.

Always remember 'Abdullah ﷺ for he was a good and sincere disciple. You all should follow his example and learn a lesson from his life that will help you keep steadfast to true Faith. He was young like you when he accepted Islam. He never felt hesitant before hardships and never surrendered to evil.

May Allâh bestow his mercy on 'Abdullah bin 'Umar ﷺ for the great services he rendered to Islam and the Muslims.